

# DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, Delaware 19901

## Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education  
The Cabinet Room

May 6, 2010  
5:15 p.m.

**Members Present:** Michael Casson, Joanne Christian, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Wendy Murray, Gretchen Pikus, Whitney Price, Shelley Rouser, Karen Schilling-Ross, Kathleen Thomas and Juanita Wilson

**Members Absent:** Samtra Devard, Marilyn Dollard, Lori Hudson

**Others Present:** Charlie Michels, PSB Executive Director: Paula Fontello, PSB Deputy Attorney General: Dan Cruce, DOE Deputy Secretary: Pat Bigelow, DOE Education Associate for Professional Accountability.

### I. Opening

**Call to Order:** Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Ms. Gordon to approve the Agenda. The motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2010:** A motion was made by Ms. Pikus and seconded by Mr. Kohan, to approve the PSB Minutes of March 4, 2010. The motion carried.

### II. Public Comment

None

### III. DOE Report

Mr. Dan Cruce began by describing the draft of legislation initiated by the Governor's Office to allow for an Alternative Routes to Licensure and Certification for Principals and Superintendents, and the prevailing rationale. Questions and concerns were posed by Board Members and Mr. Cruce listened respectfully and supplied answers with the understanding that the Bill is still in draft form and has been and may continue to be amended prior to and during Legislative Committee meetings. It was noted at several points that the PSB would have the responsibility to draft/promulgate the accompanying regulation in which details would be specified. Mr. Cruce did reiterate several times that he would be most glad to have continued conversations with any Board Member.

The next topic Mr. Cruce spoke to was the current status of *Race To The Top* (RTTT) progress, events and deliverables on the proposed timeline. Local Education Agencies and a

variety of constituent groups are meeting weekly to make decisions around Memos of Understandings and to establish cohesive plans. Mr. Michels had provided copies of associated RTTT documents to the Board in folders at their seats. Mr. Cruce will keep the PSB apprised of progress at future PSB meetings.

#### IV. **Executive Director's Report**

- Mr. Michels updated the Board on progress in a change to DE Code to allow for specialists to use a variety of pre-certification experiences in lieu of student teaching for licensure.
- The Higher Education workgroup who has been working on the triad of administrative certification regulations has made progress and is close to finalizing the work. Mr. Michels will be presenting drafts for discussion during the June PSB meeting.
- Mr. Michels noted that he had sent an official letter and subsequently spoke to Secretary Lowery about her role in helping to find a replacement parent representative on the PSB. Secretary Lowery was open to suggestions from the PSB.
- A *Leave of Absence Form* has been drafted by Mr. Michels and he is working on DOE approval and implementation, as required in regulation 151, for those seeking a leave of absence.
- Mr. Michels is working on amending regulation 1505 Standard Certificate to reflect recent changes and the DOE's affirmation that the Department should have the final approval of the "15 hours of professional development" required for a variety of certifications in certain circumstances.
- A draft of a Mentoring Program Application was found in Member's folders. This will be need once 1503 Educator Mentoring has been approved. Mr. Michels asked for feedback on the document.
- Mr. Michels shared a draft of a letter in support of the soon-to-be-released NBPTS for Principals. Feedback was encouraged.
- Mr. Michels was proud to report that the PSB pages on the DOE website are the third most frequented pages.

#### V. **Action Items**

##### **A. 1503 Educator Mentoring**

Mr. Michels reviewed some potentially non-substantive changes in the regulation, as this regulation had been published in April. Mr. Michels indicated that he and Ms. Fontello had a recent lengthy conversation about some of the definitions and section connections both within and without the regulation, and those points were shared with the Board. One issue was the required suspension of licensure if the requisite mentoring program was not completed successfully within the mandated time frame. It was felt that further scrutiny was necessary prior moving the regulation forward for Final Action.

##### **B. 1582 School Nurse**

In recent review of this regulation it was noted that there may be regulatory conflicts with Section 5: Suspension. Mr. Michels and Ms. Fontello will be working on resolving this prior to Final Action.

##### **C. 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License**

After Board discussion, as with 1582 School Nurse and 1503 Educator Mentoring, it was determined that this regulation may have some details surrounding suspensions that need more scrutiny and reconciliation.

## **VI. Discussion**

### **A. 1517 Permits Paraeducators**

This regulation was thought to be near finalization prior to Publication. Mr. Michels did speak to the new sub-section that allows for an applicant to use approved PRAXIS I test scores to attain the Permit, but if changes were made in regulation 1510 Issuance of Initial License and/or in DE Code, these should be reflected in this regulation. Mr. Michels reviewed the Options for Renewal of the Permit which met with no shared concerns by the Board. It was felt that after a determination of the whole PRAXIS I question was resolved, the regulation may move forward for Publication.

### **B. 1583 School Psychologist**

Mr. Michels has been in contact with Dr. Michael Stetter, the appointed DOE School Psychologist contact, and members of the Delaware Association of School Psychologists for feedback on proposed amendments to the regulation. In the standing regulation, there are some avenues for certification that are felt to be less than clear and questionable to determine competence. Mr. Michels reviewed some of these areas with the Board and suggested changes, including some minor formatting. The current number of required hours to attain a Masters degree in School Psychology was questioned and Mr. Michels will do the necessary research.

### **C. PRAXIS I Waiver**

Mr. Michels introduced the significant paradigm shift he proposed that would require the passing of the required Basic Skills tests (PRAXIS I) prior to licensure as opposed to the current allowance for passage after the issuance of the license. The research he provided to the Board showed that with few exceptions, most states require the passing of these tests before licensure/certification. All four Delaware Teacher Preparation Programs require of their students the passing of PRAXIS I prior to graduation. The Board generally agreed that changing the timeframe for passing PRAXIS I, which would require a change in DE Code, was very reasonable. Concerns were shared regarding ARTC candidates and if this would put an unreasonable burden on them. Mr. Michels indicated that he would check with Dr. Hughes of the UD ARTC Program. Re-visiting the current passing scores is another issue to be resolved. Mr. Michels had drafted some potential legislation, which included language allowing specialists to be licensed with options in lieu of student teaching. It was felt that before moving the legislative amendments forward, more work needed to be done to insure connections to 1510, 1517 and other sections in Code are accurate. It may be most reasonable to look for legislative support prior January of 2011 when the General Assembly re-convenes.

### **D. 1510 Initial License**

It was noted that there are components of 1510 that are tied to potential changes in Code in the future and that some definitions and sections maybe better off in being referenced to existing or soon-to-be amended regulations. It was decided not to move the regulation forward for Publication until a variety of inter-connected concerns were resolved.

## **VII. Presentation**

### **A. PRAXIS II Scores**

Dr. Bigelow of the DOE reviewed a set of documents forwarded earlier in the week to Members. Educational Testing Services (ETS) convened a multi-state standard setting study for five PRAXIS II examinations, with Delaware represented. Three World language examinations (*French, German and Spanish*) are individually being compressed from two tests into a single two hour test; the new two hour Special Education test will replace the

existing one hour exam; and the two hour Business Education exam has been updated and rescaled to the PRAXIS scale. Dr. Bigelow pointed out that these new tests will replace the existing exams and that the Special Education test replaced three, one of which Delaware currently uses. A short discussion followed that addressed any concerns of the Board. It was determined that these PRAXIS II examinations with pre-determined cut scores will be placed on the June 3, 2010 PSB Agenda for Approval.

**VIII. PSB Standing Committees**

**A. Licensure and Certification Criteria**

The Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee has not met

**B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation**

The Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee has not met.

**IX. Other**

None

**X. Public Comment**

None

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. Pikus and seconded by Dr. Greaves to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

During the course of this meeting, the Professional Standards Board may enter into Executive Session to consider strategy with respect to pending and potential litigation or with respect to personnel issues or any other matter permissible under 29 Delaware Code, Section 10004. The Professional Standards Board may also take breaks. Unforeseen circumstances may result in a meeting being cancelled due to a lack of quorum.